

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS : Muneyuki FUKUDA et al.  
SERIAL NO. : (Unassigned) *3 / IDS  
e. willis  
2-7-02*  
FILED : 24 September 2001  
FOR : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING A  
MICRO SAMPLE  
GROUP ART UNIT : (Unassigned)  
EXAMINER : (Unassigned)

J1046 U.S. PTO  
09/960479  
09/24/01

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & § 1.98**

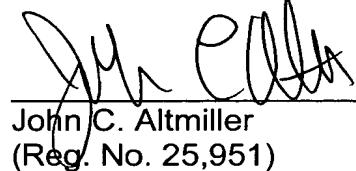
SIR:

In conformance with Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and § 1.97(b)(1), the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449 are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention.

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, copies of the references are submitted herewith. English Abstracts are attached to the non-English language references. U.S. Patent No. 5,270,552 is equivalent to JP-A-5-52721, which is described in the specification on page 2.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear in the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: 24 September 2001

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